



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 10/708,542 | 03/10/2004 | James A. Baranowski | 03292.101950.1 | 2541 |
| 66569 7590 07/23/2007 FITZPATRICK CELLA (AMEX) 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK, NY 10112 | | | EXAMINER MOONEYHAM, JANICE A | |
| | | | ART UNIT 3629 | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | MAIL DATE 07/23/2007 | DELIVERY MODE PAPER |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/708,542

Applicant(s)

BARANOWSKI ET AL.

Examiner

Janice A. Mooneyham

Art Unit

3629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 May 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is in response to the applicant's communication filed on May 16, 2007, wherein:

Claims 1-7 and 9 are currently pending;

Claims 1, 4, and 7 have been amended.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Altman et al (US 2003/0120526) (hereinafter referred to as Altman) in view of Acebo et al (6,023,679) (hereinafter referred to as Acebo) and further in view of Rosenbluth International (WO 02/29672) (hereinafter referred to as Rosenbluth).

Altman discloses a system and method for facilitating transactions among travel service suppliers and travel service buyers, the system and method comprising:

providing a communication network in communication with a plurality of centralized hub sites (Internet- Figure 1 (105) [0050] , wherein the communication network is configured to provide access to a data distribution system (booking system [0057] [0059], a travel broker database accessible by the travel service suppliers and the travel service buyers [Figure 2 (230) and (280)]; a travel history database (Figure 2

Art Unit: 3629

(270) and [0058]), and a point of service terminal through the plurality (Figure 2 (205) and (210)), wherein the data distribution system is connected to a plurality of travel vendor databases (Figure 2 (285) and (290) and [0033] [0057] [0059]);

configuring the travel broker database to store information about travel service inventory, wherein the travel service suppliers post and edit information about travel service inventory (Figure 2 (230) (280) and [0035] [0057] [0059]), and wherein travel service buyers browse [0052], perform queries (Figures 5, 7, Figure 10 (1010-1015) [0032-0033]); and

providing a point of service terminal with access to the broker database and the travel history database through the communication network (Figure 2 (205) and (210));

Altman discloses presenting information pulled from multiple data source in one user-friendly format [0031]. Altman does not disclose configuring the travel history database to be accessed by travel service buyers who use information about a traveler's future travel plans, storing information in a plurality of data sets in a plurality of formats or placing and accepting reverse auction bids on travel service inventory.

However, Acebo discloses relational databases, placing PNR information in the appropriate database format (col. 2, lines 6-10, 21-22, col. 2, lines 58-65) and information formatted into a format compatible (indicating multiple formats) (col. 5, lines 25-40). Acebo also discloses customer profile wherein pre-ticketed data can be monitored (col. 1, lines 40-65). Rosenbluth discloses reverse auctions (page 2, lines 8-17).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate into the travel and booking method and system of Altman the different formats and the pre-ticketed data of Acebo so that so that passenger records can be accessed for analysis and pre-ticket data can be used to determine the number of people going to the same destination so that a possible group rate may be negotiated.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate into the travel and booking method and system of Altman the reverse auction taught in Rosenbluth so that corporate buyers and sellers can directly negotiate an agreement by submitting a request for proposal and suppliers submitting bids, thus getting better deals.

3. Claims 2-3 and 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Altman, Acebo and Rosenbluth as applied to claims 1 and 4 above, and further in view of Pratt (US 2001/0049693) (hereinafter referred to as Pratt).

Altman does not disclose databases storing information in a plurality of data sets in a plurality of formats, wherein the plurality of data sets are stored as ungrouped data elements formatted as a block of binary via a fixed memory offset, wherein the plurality of data sets are annotated for storage with at least one of a header and a trailer.

However, Pratt discloses databases storing information in a plurality of data sets in a plurality of formats, [0032] [0041-0042], wherein the plurality of data sets are stored as ungrouped data elements formatted as a block of binary via a fixed memory offset

Art Unit: 3629

[0032][0046], wherein the plurality of data sets are annotated for storage with at least one of a header and a trailer [0037].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the arts at the time the of the invention to incorporate into the travel and booking method and system of Altman the ability to access and store data in different formats wherein the data sets are stored as BLOPs with offsets as taught in Pratt since database maintenance is reduced while storage is optimized and any data type can be stored and retrieved using the method of storing data.

NOTE: The Examiner notes that the applicant's admission in paragraph [0026] of the specification wherein the applicant admits that the data can be stored without regard to common format and that in one exemplary embodiment of the applicant's invention, the data set (e.g. BLOB) may be annotated in a standard manner. Applicant admits on page 12 of the remarks submitted on September 5, 2006 that the specific details of how to add a header or trailer to data are well-known in the art.

4. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jafri (US 5,832,454) (hereinafter referred to as Jafri) in view of Among et al (2003/0110063) (hereinafter referred to as Among).

Referring to Claim 7:

Jafri discloses an integrated travel industry system comprising:

a communication network (Figures 1 and 2);

a plurality of centralized hub sites in communication with said network (col. 4, lines 24-30), wherein each of said plurality of centralized hub sites comprises a network connection (Figures 1 and 2; Col. 3, lines), a transport mechanism (Figures 1 and 2);

a plurality of data/global distribution systems connected to each of the plurality of centralized hub sites, wherein the data center of each of the plurality of centralized hub sites is configured to store a database for each of the plurality of data/global distribution systems (Figure 2);

a remote site (Figure 1 (11) connected to the network comprising a service terminal connected to at least one of the plurality of centralized hub sites of the communication network, the point of service terminal configured to access each global distribution systems (Figures 1 and 2);

the point of service terminal comprising a user interface configured to allow simultaneous access to the global distributions systems (Figure 2) and a customer service application tier having a low fare search module (Figure 4C best Fare (S447); col. 5, line 61 thru col. 6, line 2), a passenger name record database (col. 6, lines 23-32), a customer database (col. 6, lines 5-21), a trip planning module (Figure 2; col. 6, lines 46-47; Figure 4B Step S427 Itinerary Building stage); a workflow module (software that runs the reservation system; col. 7, lines 10-12);

a travel history database connected to the communication network configured to store information (Figure 2 User information).

While Jafri discloses Gateway files which include files for establishing links to various CRSs, Jafri does not explicitly disclose a travel broker database for storing travel inventory.

However, Among discloses a travel inventory database (Figure 2 (107)).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate into the reservation system of Jafri the travel inventory database disclosed in Among as a resource for storing data for hotels, car rentals, and other inventories and prices from the various vendors.

Jafri does not disclose a redundant database. However, redundant databases are identified on the online Webopedia as:

re-dundant (adj.) Used to describe a component of a computer or network system that is used to guard the primary system from failure by acting as a back up system. Redundant components can include both hardware elements of a system -- such as disk drives, peripherals, servers, switches, routers -- and software elements -- such as operating systems, applications and databases.

Redundancy is the quality of systems or elements of a system that are backed up with secondary resources. For example, " The network has redundancy."

Thus, a redundant database is simply a back up. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate a backup into the reservation system of Jafri since it is a standard business practice to backup business information in case of system failures to prevent losses.

5. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jafri and Among as applied to claim 7 and further in view of Pratt (US 2001/0049693) (hereinafter referred to as Pratt).

Jafri discloses the limitations of claim 9.

Jafri does not disclose wherein at least one of the database stores information in a plurality of data sets in a plurality of formats and wherein the plurality of data sets are stored as ungrouped data elements formatted as a block of binary via a fixed memory offset, wherein the plurality of data sets are annotated for storage with at least one of a header and a trailer.

However, Pratt discloses databases storing information in a plurality of data sets in a plurality of formats, [0032] [0041-0042], wherein the plurality of data sets are stored as ungrouped data elements formatted as a block of binary via a fixed memory offset [0032][0046], wherein the plurality of data sets are annotated for storage with at least one of a header and a trailer [0037].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the arts at the time the of the invention to incorporate into the reservation system of Jafri the ability to access and store data in different formats wherein the data sets are stored as BLOPs with offsets as taught in Pratt since database maintenance is reduced while storage is optimized and any data type can be stored and retrieved.

NOTE: The Examiner notes that the applicant's admission in paragraph [0026] of the specification wherein the applicant admits that the data can be stored without regard to common format and that in one exemplary embodiment of the applicant's invention, the data set (e.g. BLOB) may be annotated in a standard manner. Applicant admits on page 12 of the remarks submitted on September 5, 2006 that the specific details of how to add a header or trailer to data are well-known in the art.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-7 and 9 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

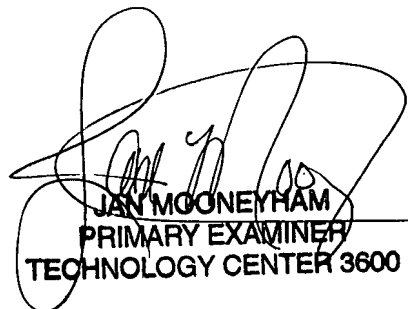
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Art Unit: 3629

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Janice A. Mooneyham whose telephone number is (571) 272-6805. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (571) 272-6812. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



JAN MOONEYHAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600